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Re : 3 Soviet Engineers at the Duesseldorf Congress of Paper Industry, 27 May - 1 June 1967

Source : Vicepresident of the Champion Envelope Co., of 141 Kent Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. / *me 21*

Date : 9 June 1967

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SOURCESMETHODSEXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. Source is a Vicepresident in his firm, of Ukrainian descent, aged 36, married; lives in New York, Forest Hills. An intelligent and industrious young business executive with former service in CIC or G 2. From May 27 to June 1, 1967 he participated in the above mentioned Congress on behalf of his firm. He left for Duesseldorf, Germany on 26 May and returned on 3 June 1967 after having also visited some of his friends in Augsburg and Munich, Germany.

At the Congress Source met 3 Soviet engineers who in the beginning took him for a German, then an American, and finally learned he was a Ukrainian American. Source acted as an American of Ukrainian descent with no party-political affiliation but did not conceal his anti-communist attitude.

participated in Duesseldorf Congress of Paper Industry
27 May - 10 June 67

2. One of the Soviet engineers, participants at the Congress, was ~~ALMAZOV~~ (?), Evgeniy, aged approx. 40, Russian, of Moscow, married, spoke perfect German, claimed to be for the first time in the West. The other two were also Russians, aged 40-42; one was an expert on Chinese affairs and in recent years claimed to have spent "some time" in Boryslav, Lvov, and Lutsk, in West Ukraine, being an expert on petroleum as well. He also acted as a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, in Moscow. The third one claimed to come from ROSTOV; a specialist in "heavy industry". Source treated them with a dinner at which after a few drinks they talked with him "quite freely" and in his opinion quite sincerely as for Soviets. Most talkative was ALMAZOV, then the Chinese and petroleum expert. Following is the gist of information obtained from them.

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3. ALMAZON highly praised Ukrainians as a very intelligent, industrious element with great influence not only in their own republic but also in Moscow and other republics. As a result Ukrainians enjoy a great respect of other nationalities and particularly of Russians who have to reckon with them, as the second largest nation of the USSR. No wonder, that recently, particularly after so many khakhlis had appeared in Moscow, Ukrainians were getting more and more concessions for themselves and "one could do nothing about it".

For ALMAZOV didn't have only praise for Ukrainians. There was also - in his opinion and that of his colleagues - much wrong with Ukrainians. The Ukraine remains a cradle and stronghold of unhealthy nationalism and separatism. At present there is a new wave of nationalistic revival growing up and, certainly, Moscow will have to do something about it. ALMAZOV thought SEMISCHASTNY will, probably, ^{not} take care of it. ALMAZOV was the first to tell Source about Semichastnyi's removal and explained to him that this did not mean necessarily SEMICHASTNY had done something really wrong. Finally-as Almazov pointed out - he (Sem.) was long enough on his post and a ministerial post in the Ukraine was not too bad. ALMAZOV said he would not be surprised if in 6 months SEMICHASTNYI will become Premier of the Ukraine.

Leading in the new ferment in the Ukraine is youth. There is also ~~too~~ much "sympathy" for Ukrainians abroad. ALMAZON knew that Ukrainians in the Soviet Ukraine had a great respect ~~had~~ "hopes" for their compatriots abroad, and knew a lot about the emigration from Radio "Liberty" and "Voice of America". In ALMAZOV'S opinion the fact that in the USA there was such a numerous Ukrainian emigration was of great importance for Soviet Ukrainians in their relations with Russians and other republics. This enhanced the status of Ukrainians. ALMAZOV talked about it when discussing necessity for further development of cultural and above all commercial contacts between the USSR and USA.

4. ALMAZON and his Chinese expert in particular, devoted much time to convince Source that Soviets and Americans have very much in common, "they are like two brothers", and should develop co-operation in all fields. Above all in trade. The Soviet Union has much trade with Canada but this ^{is} nothing. And besides, why to trade with Canada, a second grade power, and a ~~colony~~ of the United States whereas one could do a real deal with Washington, itself. The USA and USSR are two superpowers. Both have missiles and all kind of other modern weaponry with which they could easily wipe out each other and the rest of the world. So willy nilly no one can risk a nuclear war and one has to co-operate. Vietnam is a silly story and they hoped it will finish soon. The Chinese expert added that actually this ^{was} more China's than Russia's problem. They hoped for the best. And they hoped this obstacle will be soon overcome. The main thing was, however, the USA stopped "fiddling" with strategic and non-strategic goods and proved that it was genuinely interested in doing business with the Soviet Union.

When Source mentioned the Middle East, ALMAZON and his friend, vehemently denied that Moscow would ever risk America's friendship and trade for the sake of "hungry Arabs". The Chinese expert, stressing that he was here as a representative of Ministry of Foreign Trade, said that Source could not even imagine now much his Ministry was interested in trade, "a real trade", with the USA.

To Source's remark that party-members were perhaps less interested in trade with a capitalist America and they were deciding, the representative of the Ministry replied that he shouldn't be kidding about party members. "Who are they, and who are we - the specialists? he asked. Finally we are also in the party and we know what we are doing. No one can do anything ~~about~~ without us. Pretty soon we shall have even to computarize party decisions". He continued that "all cadres in the Soviet Union are getting specialized, professional, and above all rejuvenated". In the latter he saw best prospects for future normalization of relations between the USA and USSR. But one should not wait too long.

And in conclusion he said : "Finally we and not what you call party members are building the Soviet state".

5. Source mentioned that just before boarding the plane for Germany he was at the poetry reading of Korotych in New York. ALMAZOV commented that KOROTYCH probably painted a very rosy picture about the Ukraine but he can assure Source that not all was fine. "But you know, how it is- those poets and other scribblers see everything in rosy colors, so don't take everything for granted. We engineers - have a more realistic, down-to-earth view on everything".

But when Source mentioned Russification, ALMAZOV and his friends^{there was} such in the Ukraine and then corrected themselves by saying that it was not true there were many Russian chauvinists in the Ukrainian Republic.

denied

6. While discussing theoretical aspects of communism, the Chinese expert said that from "dogmatic, ideological point of view China was at present 25 years ahead of the Soviet Union and this fact definitely complicated internal relations in the communist block". But he, as a ~~trade~~ specialist did not worry much about it.

7. Source was invited to visit the Soviet Union and they will show him "whatever he wanted". They told him also they did not feel very comfortable in the West "because, as you know, this is our first trip to the West, and we don't know your customs, habits, and your etiquette." ALMAZOV called^{it} "a Western Weltanschaung" which he and his colleagues lacked. But this was just another argument for development of trade and relations with the USA and the West in general.

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